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extreme south—are a wonderful example of the adaptability of man to conditions.

These people wring a scanty subsistence from their inhospitable land. Those who live near the Colorado catch fish; but to many of the desert dwellers fish and game are almost unknown. The cactus furnishes a large portion of their food. The fibres of the plant are woven into a coarse cloth, which gives them clothing, and mud and sticks form the materials for their houses. These people manufacture baskets, curios, and coarse pottery.

There is no greater mistake than to imagine the desert without plant life. Cacti in innumerable variety abound; there are also sage, mesquite, chaparral, and greasewood, and numbers of other plants, many producing beautiful flowers.

The mineral wealth of the desert is of no little importance. Death Valley has among the most important borax mines in the world—thirty thousand acres of deposits having been located to date. Gold, tin, copper, lead, zinc, iron, gypsum, sulphur, onyx, and other rare stones are also found here.

Portions of the mid-region are considerably below the level of the sea. In fact, there are two papers in the Colorado Desert printed below sea-level.

As an interpreter of the desert—its dreadfulness, its charm, its mystery, its wonderful variety—Mr. Burdick deserves very high praise. He writes out of a loving experience, and describes with charm and faithfulness.

U. F. D.

NOTES AND NEWS.

NOTICE TO FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY.

The foreign delegates to the Eighth International Geographic Congress will be the guests of the Society during the three-days' session in this city, September 13-15. The business and proceedings of the Congress assigned to these days will be transacted at the house of the Society and in the lecture-rooms of the American Museum of Natural History through the kind co-operation of that institution. A large and important part of the scientific programme will be carried out in this city, and the Fellows of the Society will have an opportunity to attend the meetings and participate in the entertainments of this exceptional occasion.

The circular issued by the local committee in July urged our Fellows to become members of the Congress, and thus secure the privilege of attending all the sessions and lectures. The membership fee is \$5 and the associate membership fee (for ladies and minors) is \$2.50. The amount of these fees should be sent to the Committee of Arrangements, Hubbard Memorial Hall, Washington, D. C.

The social features of the New York meeting are expected to be generally attractive, and the hearty co-operation of all is invited to enhance their success. Information concerning them is given in the July Circular:

There will be a reception to the members of the Congress, at the rooms of the Society, on Tuesday evening, September 13th, at 9.15 P. M., to which all members of the Society are cordially invited.

It is also proposed to give a complimentary dinner to the delegates on Wednesday evening, September 14th, at 8 P. M., in the Hotel Endicott, Columbus Avenue and 81st Street. This dinner will be open to members of the Society upon payment of \$3.00 per plate.

It is further proposed to provide a daylight excursion up the Hudson River on Thursday, September 15th, as far as Fishkill, starting at 9 A. M. from the foot of West 129th Street. This excursion will be free to all members of the Congress, and to all members of our Society and their families.

Should you desire to attend either or all of these entertainments, kindly notify the Society of your intention at an early date, specifying the number of tickets you will need, as tickets will be required for each person.

It is hoped that all members of the Society who can be present will make an effort to attend.

THE EIGHTH INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CONGRESS.—The attendance upon the first of these congresses to be held in America of a considerable body of distinguished scientific men from all parts of the world is now assured. More than 500 persons have registered as members. Over one hundred delegates from foreign geographical societies have expressed their intention to be present. The Government of the United States, as well as a considerable number of foreign Governments, will also be represented by delegates.

The Congress will be opened at Washington Sept. 8, and the first day will be chiefly given to the opening exercises at George Washington University Hall, to visits to the scientific bureaux, and to a lecture in the evening. On Friday, Sept. 9, the reading of papers will begin. Over 200 papers from the geographers of most civilized countries have been offered, and the scientific programme will be full of interest to geographers. The meetings in general

session or in sections will be continued through Saturday, the scientific programme in Washington being relieved by two social functions, a reception by Mrs. Gardiner Greene Hubbard at "Twin Oaks" at 5 P. M. on Friday, and a reception by Commander R. E. Peary, C. E., U. S. N., President of the Congress, and Mrs. Peary, at 8 P. M. on Saturday.

The Congress will spend Monday, Sept. 12, in Philadelphia under the auspices of the Geographical Society of Philadelphia. A field meeting will be held in Fairmount Park, with addresses by local and other geographers, and the rest of the day will be devoted to various social features.

The meeting of the Congress in New York City will occupy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Sept. 13-15. The house of the American Geographical Society will be the headquarters in New York. The features of work and entertainment in this city are outlined in the Notice to Fellows of the Society in this number of the BULLETIN.

The Lenox Library invites the Congress to view a special exhibit of rare old maps and works on geography.

The Congress will spend twelve hours at Niagara Falls on Friday, Sept. 15. Dr. G. K. Gilbert will speak on the geographical development of the cataract, and there will be a general field meeting in charge of geographers familiar with the region.

Arriving at Chicago on Saturday morning, Sept. 16, a general session will be held at Cobb Hall, Chicago University, in the forenoon, and a reception will be tendered by the Geographical Society of Chicago in the evening.

After spending Sunday in Chicago the party will arrive in St. Louis on Monday morning, Sept. 19, where several meetings will be held in conjunction with the World's Congress of Science and Arts. President Peary will deliver a lecture on Tuesday evening, Sept. 20. An excursion has been arranged to the Grand Cañon of the Colorado and the City of Mexico, starting from St. Louis on Sept. 24 and returning to the same point in about twelve or fourteen days.